

Funding Alternatives For Trails



Have You Ever Needed Funds for a Trail Project?



Objective

For a Trail Project, Develop a Strategy That Will Help:

- Organize the Support of Potential Partners
- Identify Funding Sources for Implementation
- Apply for funds for implementation
- Secure the funds
- Spend them!
- Defend Them!



**FREE
LUNCH**

Federal Highway Administration

SAFETEA-LU

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Transportation Enhancements
- Scenic Byways
- Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program
(gary.jensen@dot.gov)

Reauthorization (?)

RTP - The 800 Pound Gorilla



RTP Administration

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Assistance Program - \$85 million/year under SAFETEA-LU in FY 09
- States administer the program
- States set procedures
- RTP state advisory committees required - in Alaska it is the Outdoor Recreation Trail Advisory Board (ORTAB)
- ORTAB scores and ranks each qualified Alaska application, projects are then approved by the Director of the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

RTP in SAFETEA-LU

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM —

- *\$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2005,*
- *\$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2006,*
- *\$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2007,*
- *\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2008,*
- *\$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.*

Not affected by Stimulus Funds Such as the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Eligible Projects

- Motorized and non-motorized
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Trailside/trailhead facilities and trail linkages
- Purchase and lease of trail equipment (ok in Alaska, not ok in some states – in Alaska, equipment purchased becomes the property of the State, Grantee is responsible for all maintenance and care of the equipment for its useful life or five years, whichever is shorter)

RTP Funds Can Be Used For

- Construction of new trails
- Acquisition of easements or property
- Administrative costs and education programs (spending limits) (up to 7% of grant funds requested in Alaska)
- Trails accessibility assessment (added in 2005)
- Non-LE safety patrols (added in 2005) (OK in Alaska)
- Trail monitoring (added in 2005) (OK in Alaska)
- Trail related publications (OK in Alaska)

RTP Funds Cannot Be Used For

- Property condemnation
- New Forest Service, FWS, or BLM trails that do not comply with land use plans
- Change from Motorized use on existing trails

More SAFETEA-LU Changes

- Amends the allowable Federal Share of projects
Federal share may be more than 80% in some states, lower than 80% in some states (80% in Alaska)
- Allows RTP funds to be used as match for other Federal funding programs
- Allows pre-approval planning and environmental compliance as match
- 5% in Alaska may be used for environmental protection and safety education

RTP Project Sponsors

- Municipal, County, State or Federal Agencies
- Private organizations (in some States)
- Can be for public or private lands (public access on private lands)
- Use of youth conservation or service programs encouraged

Challenges not met in SAFETEA-LU

- RTP projects must be in state and Metropolitan Planning Organizations plans (in Alaska, projects must be identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan-SCORP)
- If project is in Right of Way of Federal funded highway needs to follow highway contracting procedures

How Does Project Funding Work?

- Variable project sizes
- Some minimum or maximum limits (In Alaska, the maximum grant funding amount that may be requested is \$50,000, no minimum)
- Federal agencies can add funds to 95% of the project total cost and can use their funds for up to 15% of the required match
- Remainder from other sponsors (5% Required in Alaska)
- In-kind materials/services can be match
- Grants are reimbursable type of funding
- In Alaska, RTP grants have a two year term

How Do I Obtain RTP Funding?

- Each State has its own procedures!!!
- Contact your State to find out program requirements and selection criteria
- Attend workshop if possible
- See FHWA website for State RTP coordinators/websites
- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.htm

Transportation Enhancements

- Funded from the general gas tax
- 10% of a state's Surface Transportation Program
- Administered by State DOT
 - Each state has their own procedures
 - Each state has their own match requirements
 - Are reimbursable funding

Transportation Enhancements (TE)

- Must be related to a surface transportation facility
- Twelve categories: including
 - Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
 - Safety and education facilities
 - Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (rail-trails)

Transportation Enhancements (con't)

- Trails funded by TE MUST perform a transportation function
- <http://www.enhancements.org/>
 - Has links that describes the state's program and lists State and FHWA TE coordinators

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- 3% of funds to States must go to TE.

No match required.

No competitive process required.

National Scenic Byways Program

- National Scenic Byway or All American Road – designated for outstanding qualities
- Matching fund awards
- Projects associated with designated roads
- Managed by State DOT and/or Tourism
- Project awards determined by FHWA
- FY 2009 deadline already passed
- Next year? Watch website.

Eligible Projects For Scenic Byways

- Site and/or project needs to be in Byway Corridor management plan
- Eight eligible categories (examples)
 - Enhance access for recreation
 - Construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities
 - Protection of adjacent resources

Website <http://www.bywaysonline.org>

National Scenic Byways Program

- Funding for the national scenic byways program for projects:
- (A) \$26,500,000 for fiscal year 2005;
- (B) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- (C) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- (D) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (E) \$43,500,000 for fiscal year 2009.

Trail Projects Funded by National Scenic Byway Program FY 07 = \$1,463,862

- FL-The Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway - Pedestrian Pedway \$500,000
- IA- Great River Road - Mississippi River Trail Feasibility Study for Lee Co. \$50,200
- IA -Live, Work and Play - Interpretive Project for the Mississippi Great River Road and Mississippi River Trail \$106,291

Trail Projects Funded by National Scenic Byway Program FY 07 (cont.)

- LA- Creole Nature Trail - Boardwalk and Observation Area \$504,000
- NM - 2007 Historic Route 66: West End Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail \$50,000
- OK Mountain Gateway Trails Brochure and Website \$63,371
- WA- Lewis and Clark Trail Highway Discovery Trail Paving Completion \$190,000

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM (TCSP)

- Open to State, tribal, regional, and local governments,
- Purpose is to address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices
- Identify private sector-based initiatives to improve such relationships.
- Usually completely earmarked

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM GOALS

- (1) Improve the efficiency of the transportation system of the United States.
- (2) Reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment.
- (3) Reduce the need for costly future investments in public infrastructure.
- (4) Provide efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade.
- (5) Examine community development patterns and identify

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING

- \$25,000,000 fiscal year 2005
- \$61,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009

Contact Website:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/index.html>

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TCSF projects in 09 FHWA budget

- Newton County Rails to Trails By~Pass Tunnel, GA \$142,500 Rep. Marshall (D- 8th)
- Newton County Rails to Trails Right of Way Purchase, GA \$622,250 Rep. Marshall (D- 8th)
- Newton County Rails to Trails Yellow River Bridges, GA \$232,750 Rep. Marshall (D- 8th)

Will only fund about 20%
of the total project

TCSF Projects for FY 2008

\$5,365,500

- Construction of Riverside Multi-use Trailways, Parkland, FL \$245,000
- Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, Bibb County, GA \$392,000
- Rails to Trails/Civic Center Project, Covington, GA \$490,000
- Silver Comet Trail Atlanta Road Connector, GA \$245,000

TCSP Projects for FY 2008 (cont.)

- Illinois Trails, IL \$2,940,000
- Des Moines Creek Trail Access Project, WA \$490,000
- Olympic Discovery Trail/Elwha River Pedestrian Bridge, WA \$563,500

Safe Routes to Schools

- Part of the 2005 to SAFETEA-LU
- Comes from federal gas tax
- Purpose
 1. To enable and encourage children to walk and bike to school
 2. Make hiking & biking to school safer
 3. Facilitate projects that improve safety, reduce traffic, reduce fuel consumption, reduce air pollution
- Projects must be within 2 miles of a primary or secondary school
- FHWA program administered through State DOT
- safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/

Coming soon to a Congress Near You!

Trails and the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act !!

Starring...

- A cast of millions, including...

 - A New Congress

 - A New President

 - A New Secretary of Transportation

 - A New FHWA Administrator

 - Trails Groups

 - Tourism Associations

 - Environmental Groups

Coming soon to a Congress Near You!

Trails and the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act !!

All FHWA program end 9/30/2009.

Extensions likely if no reauthorization.

The programs described above do not appear exactly the same in ANY Reauthorization Proposals.

TE likely in some form.

RTP, Scenic Byways, TCSP are popular and supported but no clear idea of what they will look like.

National Park Service

- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance helps with planning and State and Local Governments, non-profits, partnerships
- Connecting Trails to Parks
- National Trails System
40th Anniversary was Oct 2



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Trails

- Impact on trails unknown likely positive
- NPS, FWS, BLM, USFS all using ARRA money for trails
- Have to contract out - no in-house/force account

Hire Youth Corps? Professional Trail Builders?

How it will work at a state level? Probably through Youth Corps and State Park Budgets

State Government

- State by State variability
- OHV grants – AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WY
- Non-motorized grants – AZ, UT, Others
- Check out your State's possibilities and attend workshops they offer!!!

Local Government



Non-government Funding Sources

- Non-profits, businesses, corporations, foundations
- Projects align with company/organization goals
- Trail interest or connection
- Business sponsors often work through non-profits

Non-government Funding Sources: examples

- Past corporate sponsors include: Honda, Subaru, and many others
- Grant programs: Tread Lightly, Continental Divide Trail Alliance, American Hiking Society, REI, and more
- Check web sites for creative funding ideas

Enthusiasts and User Groups

- Available at all levels
- Often in-kind match or volunteer support
- Examples: AHS Volunteer Vacations, Back Country Horsemen

Community Support

- Schools, churches, community groups, service organizations, etc
- Cooperating association or friends groups
- As many variations as projects
- Support can include dollars, materials, labor, in-kind contributions
- Meet contributing organization's goals

More Possible Sources



- Corrections Programs
- Americorps
- Youth Programs
- May be less costly than in-house
- May be helpful in acquiring outside funds

Grant Writing

- Good courses available - NTC, State RTP coordinators, universities
- Consult with RTP coordinators, get examples
- Books and publications

Guidelines for Project Sponsors

- Get public support – identify benefits, sponsors
- Get project into a state, regional or local plan
- Multiple partners and trail uses
- Workable project – consider trail needs
- Realistic expectations of results
- Find sources for matching funds

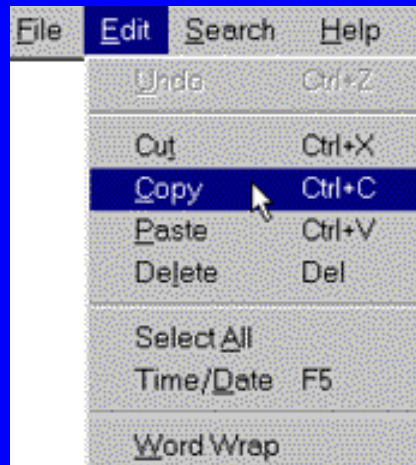
More Guidelines

- Involve youth programs if possible
- Good design
- Budget Realistically, DON'T low ball
- Consider potential problems - permits, environment, opposition
- Timely, good quality application
- Get to work! Move quickly from project approval to implementation

Be Creative!



Or Copy Somebody!



What's after this course?



American Trails maintains this web site
<http://www.nttp.net/>

For more information

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